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IN THIS ISSUE:

Page

NEWS RELEASES-

0962	USDA Proposes To Declare Portugal Free Of African Horse Sickness	1
0963	USDA Seeks Comments On Proposal To Revise Fresh Blueberry Standards	1
0964	USDA Extends Comment Period On The Proposed Disease Status Of Belgium	2
0965	USDA Proposes To Revise Identification Requirements For Sheep and Goats	3
0966	Sorghum Prices Reach Farmer-Owned Reserve Stop-Storage-Payment Level	3
0967	Secretary Espy Names Members To Soybean Promotion Board	4
0968	USDA-Developed Boll Weevil Bait Tube Now Commercially Available	4
0969	Fluid Milk Processors Approve Promotion Program	6
0972	USDA To Hold Agriculture Outlook '94 Conference Nov. 30 - Dec. 1	6
0974	Espy Names Members To Beef Promotion Board	7
0976	USDA Proposes Allowing Fruit Cold Treatment In Southern United States	8

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS-

0971	USDA Announces Prevailing World Market Rice Prices, Marketing Certificate Rates	9
0975	USDA Announces Prevailing World Market Price And User Marketing Certificate Payment Rate For Upland Cotton	9

MEDIA ADVISORY-

0973	"Soil And Water Quality"	11
0977	Canadian Flood Volunteers To Be Honored	11

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For further information about this booklet contact Charles Hobbs, editor, News Division, Office of Public Affairs, Room 406-A, U.S Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250 or call (202) 720-4026.

News Releases-

Release No. 0962.93

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USDA PROPOSES TO DECLARE PORTUGAL FREE OF AFRICAN HORSE SICKNESS

WASHINGTON, Nov. 22 -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture proposed today to declare Portugal free of African horse sickness (AHS), a fatal equine viral disease not found in the United States.

After Portugal requested USDA to recognize it as free of AHS, USDA veterinarians reviewed the documentation supporting the application and conducted an on-site evaluation of Portugal's veterinary services, laboratory and diagnostic procedures, vaccination practices and administration of animal import regulations protecting against possible introduction of this AHS. The European Community recognized Portugal free of AHS on Nov. 9, 1992.

"The change in disease status would allow for safer, easier and less expensive temporary importations of Portuguese horses for U.S. shows, competitions and sporting events," said Billy G. Johnson, deputy administrator of veterinary services in USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

Johnson said all horses from Portugal, whether temporarily or permanently imported, currently are allowed to enter the United States only at the USDA's Animal Import Center in Newburgh, N.Y., where they are quarantined for AHS for at least 60 days. These import and quarantine requirements also apply to horses that have stopped in, or traveled through, countries that the USDA considers to be affected with AHS. A 60-day quarantine at the USDA animal import facility at Newburgh costs importers about \$4,700 per horse.

"By allowing horses from Portugal to enter the United States through a variety of ports and requiring shorter, less expensive quarantine periods, we anticipate the proposal may have a positive economic impact by making importation of horses from Portugal more practical," Johnson said.

However, the overall economic impact of Portuguese horses imported permanently would be minimal to the U.S. horse industry with this proposed change. During 1991 and 1992, the overall number of horses imported into the country comprised 0.2 to 0.3 percent of the total number of U.S. horses. In this same two-year period, only one horse was imported specifically from Portugal.

The proposal was published in the Nov. 1 Federal Register. To comment, send an original and three copies of written comments referring to docket number 93-113-1 on or before Dec. 1 to Chief, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, USDA, Room 804 Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782. Comments once received may be reviewed at USDA, Room 1141, South Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C., between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Persons wishing access to the reading room are encouraged to call ahead at (202) 690-2817 to facilitate entry.



Release No. 0963.93

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USDA SEEKS COMMENTS ON PROPOSAL TO REVISE FRESH BLUEBERRY STANDARDS

WASHINGTON, Nov. 22 -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture is seeking comments on a proposal to revise the U.S. standards for fresh blueberries.

Lon S. Hatamiya, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said the fresh blueberry standards have not been updated since their establishment in 1966.

The North American Blueberry Council requested new standards to reflect changes in harvesting and marketing practices. Presently, the standard applies to selected and hybrid varieties of the highbush blueberry produced under cultivation. The proposal recommends that the standard include the rabbiteye species, since it is grown in sufficient quantities throughout the country.

It is also proposed that size no longer be part of the grade requirements. Fresh blueberries are generally not sized by packers and the sizes of blueberries vary from variety to variety. For these reasons, blueberries would be able to meet a U.S. grade without having to meet a specific size. However the "size classification" section, which defines various sizes of blueberries, would remain in the standard. It would remain for two reasons, to answer requests concerning size determinations and to further enhance marketing with common terminology.

Another proposed revision to the standard would base tolerances on a percentage of defects and not a set number, the procedure which is used in the current standard. There would also be a separate tolerance for blueberries that still have attached stems.

Broken skins and scars are considered defects when readily noticeable. The proposal would add definitions for broken skins and scars to give graders and interested parties a better distinction for judging their criteria.

USDA works with interested groups and individuals to establish or revise U.S. standards for about 200 agricultural products.

The proposed revisions of the fresh blueberry standards will be published in the Nov. 19 Federal Register. Written comments, postmarked or courier-dated no later than Jan. 18, 1994, should be sent to the Standardization Section, Fresh Products Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Division, AMS, USDA, P.O. Box 96456, Rm. 2056-S, Washington D.C. 20090-6456; tel. (202) 720-2185. Copies of the proposed rule are available from the same address.



Release No. 0964.93
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USDA EXTENDS COMMENT PERIOD ON THE PROPOSED DISEASE STATUS OF BELGIUM

WASHINGTON, Nov. 22 -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture is reopening the comment period on the proposal to declare Belgium free of rinderpest and foot-and-mouth disease. The public now has until Nov. 29 to comment on the proposal.

On Sept. 13, the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service published in the Federal Register a proposal to accept Belgium's application to be considered free of these two communicable foreign livestock diseases. The initial comment period on the proposal ended on Oct. 13. It was reopened at the request of representatives of the livestock industry who wanted more time to respond.

The proposal would allow fresh, chilled and frozen meats and dairy products from ruminant animals to be imported under restrictions into the United States. Because there is limited U.S. demand to import these Belgian products, the proposal is not expected to have a major impact on current trade patterns.

To comment, send an original and three copies of written comments referring to docket number 93-103-2 on or before Nov. 29 to Chief, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, USDA, Room 804 Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782. Comments received may be reviewed at USDA, Room 1141, South Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C., between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Persons wishing access to the reading room are encouraged to call ahead on (202) 690-2817 to facilitate entry.



Release No. 0965.93
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USDA PROPOSES TO REVISE IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SHEEP AND GOATS

WASHINGTON, Nov. 22 -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture proposed today to revise regulations designed to prevent the interstate spread of scrapie in sheep and goats by removing certain identification requirements that may unnecessarily burden livestock producers.

"We believe that these changes would ensure against interstate spread of scrapie while eliminating unnecessary marking and identification requirements," said Billy G. Johnson, deputy administrator of veterinary services in USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

In order to help prevent interstate spread of scrapie, sheep and goats that pose a significant risk of being affected with the disease must be permanently identified with an "S" in indelible ink on the left jaw before they can be moved interstate. Scrapie, a fatal, neurological disease of sheep and goats, can take months, or even years to develop. About 4,300 animals out of the estimated total of 11 million sheep in the United States are affected by scrapie.

The proposal allows sheep and goats less than one year old from scrapie-infected flocks to be moved interstate to slaughter without a permanent "S" mark if they are accompanied by an official permit and transported under a seal placed by an APHIS representative. It costs about 50 cents to brand each lamb.

Johnson said if animals being brought to slaughter only come into contact with other animals going to slaughter, the risk of spreading scrapie is small. The majority of sheep and goats going to slaughter are less than one year old.

The proposal also increases the types of identification that owners can use to identify certain animals in infected flocks or source flocks. Either an electronic implant, a flank tattoo or an ear tattoo that provides a unique identification number would be acceptable.

The proposal was published in the Nov. 12 Federal Register. Comments will be considered if received on or before Jan. 11, 1994. To submit a written comment, send an original and three copies to Chief, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, USDA, Room 804 Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

Comments may be reviewed at USDA, Room 1141 South Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C., between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Persons wishing to view comments are encouraged to call ahead at (202) 690-2817 to facilitate entry into the comment reading room.



Release No. 0966.93
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SORGHUM PRICES REACH FARMER-OWNED RESERVE STOP-STORAGE-PAYMENT LEVEL

WASHINGTON, Nov. 23 -- To comply with applicable laws, the U. S. Department of Agriculture today announced that storage payments will be stopped immediately for sorghum pledged as collateral for Commodity Credit Corporation Farmer-Owned reserve loans.

The statute authorizing the reserve requires that whenever the market price for sorghum is determined to be equal to or to exceed 95 percent (\$4.43 per hundredweight) of the sorghum established target price, storage payments shall cease.

A moving five-day average price is determined by CCC each day for sorghum by adjusting daily major terminal market prices using a monthly adjustment factor.

The nonstorage earning period begins today and will continue until prices have been below the stop-storage-payment level for more than 90 consecutive days.

Today's announcement will not alter producers' receipt of storage payments earned prior to the announcement. Producers may continue to market sorghum pledged as collateral for these loans at their discretion. Producers may also continue to place sorghum in the Farmer-Owned Reserve.



Release No. 0967.93

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SECRETARY ESPY NAMES MEMBERS TO SOYBEAN PROMOTION BOARD

WASHINGTON, Nov. 23 -- Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy announced nine reappointments and 12 new appointments to the United Soybean Board. All will serve 3-year terms beginning December 1993.

Reappointed members representing soybean producers by state are: Alabama--Harold R. Phillips; Arkansas--Paul G. McCutchen; Iowa--Ralph L. Christensen; Maryland--Wilson R. Bounds; Minnesota--Joan K. Nagel; Mississippi--Jerome B. Slocum; Ohio--Leonard R. Miller; and South Carolina--David M. Winkles Jr..

The new members by state or region are: Florida--Ralph B. Yoder; Illinois--Thomas W. Ritter; Indiana--Robert I. Williams; Kansas--Gary D. Parker; Kentucky--James D. Snider; Michigan--Ronald K. Weller; Missouri--David M. Haggard; Nebraska--Robert G. Eilts; South Dakota--Charles R. Friedrich; Tennessee--Jimmy V. Barbour; Texas--Worth L. Matteson III; and Eastern Region--Dennis F. Phelps.

Espy also announced four reappointments and two new appointments for alternates to the board. The order provides for an alternate member for each state or region with only one member on the board. Alternates will serve terms that coincide with the terms of members from the state or region they will represent.

Reappointed alternate members by state are: Alabama--Benjamin B. Spratling Jr.; Florida--Thomas D. Stadskev; Iowa--Lumir E. Dostal Jr.; and Texas--Royal D. Burnside III. New alternate members by state or region are: Maryland--William H. Anderson; and Eastern Region--Lyle C. Tabb III.

The 60-member board is authorized by the 1990 Soybean Promotion, Research and Consumer Information Act. The board administers a program of soybean promotion and research to expand uses for soybeans and soybean products in domestic and foreign markets.

The secretary selected the appointees from soybean producers nominated by qualified state soybean boards. Other organizations representing soybean producers submitted nominations for the Eastern region.

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service monitors operation of the board.



Release No. 0968.93

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USDA-DEVELOPED BOLL WEEVIL BAIT TUBE NOW COMMERCIALY AVAILABLE

WASHINGTON, Nov. 23-- A new "bait tube" for controlling boll weevils uses only five to ten percent of the insecticide typically sprayed on cotton and is now ready for farmers, said a U.S. Department of Agriculture scientist.

Placed in the soil around a cotton field, the tubes rely on an insecticide coating to fight the weevils. On the tube, a synthetic version of the pest's own chemical attractant, or pheromone, lures the weevils to the coating.

Originally made using wooden sticks, the new biodegradable paper fiber tubes reduced spring emergence of weevils by more than 90 percent in field tests in eight states, reported entomologist Gerald H. McKibben of USDA's Agricultural Research Service. He said the Environmental Protection Agency has approved commercial use of the tubes.

Each tube uses about 20 grams of malathion, an EPA-registered insecticide. "Per acre, that's less than 10 percent of the amount in a typical spray application with malathion and certain other insecticides," McKibben said.

McKibben and colleagues at the ARS Boll Weevil Research Unit in Starkville, Miss., worked out the idea for the original bait stick and the tube. Then, the tubes were commercially developed under a cooperative research and development agreement between ARS and Plato Industries, Inc., of Houston. Plato, which will market the technology as "Boll Weevil Attract and Control Tubes" (BWACT), ran field tests of the tubes in Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee in 1992. Field tests were also run this past spring.

"This fall, the tubes will be especially useful for destroying weevils that may otherwise emerge to damage cotton next spring," McKibben said.

"The tubes don't attract beneficial insects and are a safe alternative to spraying, especially near townships or environmentally sensitive areas such as lakes, parks and wildlife refuges," McKibben said.

"We conducted more than 20 years of fundamental research on boll weevil pheromones, brain chemistry and behavior at Starkville--and drew on earlier findings by others--to arrive at the point where we could develop the first prototype, previously called a bait stick," McKibben said. That was in 1989.

He said one patent is pending and another has been granted for the bait tube and its components. Plato Industries licensed the ARS technology. In addition to the U.S., the company is commercially developing the tubes for use in Mexico, Central America and South America.

The tubes are available in boxes of 60 tubes, pheromone dispensers, dowels to hold the tubes and two pairs of gloves, according to the firm's president, Thomas A. Plato.

The recommended rate is one tube every 100 feet around a field's perimeter, two to four times per growing season. Plato said the tubes are effective more than four weeks--10 to 14 times longer than a single, conventional spray of weevil insecticide. "We can reduce conventional boll weevil insecticide applications by as much as 80 percent using this attract and control technology," he said.

McKibben said improvements over the scientists' earlier bait sticks include:

- * A new plastic pheromone-dispenser. This is inserted in the top of the tube more handily than the previously used plastic cap, which also proved difficult to mass-produce. "Boll weevils find the improved dispenser just as attractive as the plastic caps," McKibben said.

- * Coatings of malathion, which replaced cyfluthrin. Malathion costs less but is equally effective. It is also less toxic to mammals.

- * Biodegradable, paper-fiber tubes to replace bulky, wooden sticks used earlier. The tubes are easier to handle and can be chopped up or plowed under for easy, on-farm disposal after harvest.

The ARS scientists now are testing "ultraviolet absorber" additives for the tubes. "These may prolong the color and brightness of the tube's yellowish-green pigment, which weevils find so appealing," McKibben said.

ARS and Plato Industries also are continuing to improve the technology for broad-scale use in programs to control or eradicate boll weevils.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: Contact for details Gerald R. McKibben, entomologist, Boll Weevil Research Unit, Agricultural Research Service, USDA, Mississippi State, Miss., 39762. Telephone (601) 323-2230.

Or, Thomas A. Plato, Plato Industries, Inc., 2001 Holcombe Blvd., Suite 203, Houston, Tex. 77030. Telephone (713) 797-0406.

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Release No. 0969.93
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FLUID MILK PROCESSORS APPROVE PROMOTION PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, Nov. 23 -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced today that fluid milk processors have voted to implement a national program for fluid milk promotion and consumer education.

Lon Hatamiya, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said 71.7 percent of the fluid milk processors voting in a referendum favored implementing the program. These processors represented 76.7 percent of the volume of fluid milk products marketed by all processors during May, the representative period set for the referendum. Fluid milk products include such items as whole milk, skim milk and buttermilk.

The Fluid Milk Promotion Program is authorized by the 1990 Farm Bill and is based on a proposal presented last year by a large portion of U.S. fluid milk processors. Before holding the referendum, USDA considered both written comments received on the proposal and those gathered at a public meeting in April.

The program will be funded by a mandatory assessment on all fluid milk products processed and marketed commercially in consumer packages in the 48 contiguous states. The assessment will be 20 cents per hundredweight, and will apply only for the months of February through July 1994 during the first 30 months of the program. Processors who distribute 500,000 pounds or less of fluid milk products per month will be exempt.

The promotion and consumer education activities of the program will be carried out by a national Fluid Milk Processor Promotion Board appointed by the secretary of agriculture. The board will have 20 members, 15 of whom will represent geographic regions, and five of whom will be at-large members. The at-large members will include three fluid milk processors and one member from the general public.

The program will become effective Dec. 10, following publication of the final rule in the Federal Register.



Release No. 0972.93
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USDA TO HOLD AGRICULTURE OUTLOOK '94 CONFERENCE NOV. 30 - DEC. 1

WASHINGTON, Nov. 23--Agriculture Outlook '94, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's 70th outlook conference, will take place at USDA headquarters Nov. 30 and Dec. 1, 1993.

Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy will open the conference with a keynote address at 9 a.m. EST. Following Espy's address, top USDA officials and outside experts will assess the impact of flood and drought on this year's harvests, the status of key trade agreements, and prospects for farmers, consumers and rural Americans.

Tuesday morning scheduled speakers include Keith Collins, Acting Assistant Secretary for Economics; Eugene Moos, Under Secretary for International Affairs and Commodity Programs; Bob Nash, Under Secretary for Small Community and Rural Development; Richard Gady, Chief Economist, ConAgra, Inc.; and Karl N. Stauber, Vice President of Programs, Northwest Area Foundation.

To provide wide public access, Tuesday's sessions will be televised live 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST on C-Band satellite. To view the conference on C-Band, viewers must tune in the Galaxy 3 satellite, transponder 24. The location is 93.5 degrees; downlink frequency is 4180 MHZ.

Viewers will be able to watch a noon press conference scheduled by Secretary Espy, followed by a rebroadcast of the opening address for later time zones.

At 1:30 p.m., environmental officials will discuss land and water policies affecting farmers and other private landowners. A session on food safety and nutrition issues follows at 3:00 p.m. Speakers include USDA Assistant Secretaries Eugene Branstool and Ellen Haas, Grocery Manufacturers of America official Stephen A. Zillers, New York University professor Marion Nestle, and Michael Jacobson, director of the Center for Science in the Public Interest.

On Wednesday, Dec. 1, USDA official James R. Donald will discuss the 1994 agricultural outlook. Then, conference attendees will hear detailed prospects for specific farm commodities, nursery products, forest products, aquaculture, food prices and farm finance.

In addition to USDA analysts, scheduled speakers include private sector officials Pete Wenstrand, National Corn Growers Association; David R. Graves, Rice Millers' Association; Drew Gruenburg, Society of American Florists; Keth Henley, Cotlook Ltd.; Carlos F.J. Moore, American Textile Manufacturers Institute; Danny McKinney, Burley Tobacco Growers Cooperative Association; Murray Jones, R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, Bruce Ginn, Oscar Mayer Foods Corp.; and Rod Boltjes, Cargill, Inc. Leonard Condon, Deputy Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Agricultural Affairs, will speak Wednesday evening at a dinner function.

The on-site registration fee will be \$50.00. For more details, call: Outlook '94, Room 5143-S, Washington, D.C. 20250-3900; telephone (202) 720-3050. Audiotape and videotape cassettes and a printed proceedings will be issued after the conference.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: A fully staffed press room will be available. For details, call Diane Decker at (202) 219-0494. The registration fee can be waived for accredited members of the news media. For technical questions about the C-Band broadcast, call 202-720-5368 before the conference or 202-720-4001 on Nov. 30.

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Release No. 0974.93
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ESPY NAMES MEMBERS TO BEEF PROMOTION BOARD

WASHINGTON, Nov. 24 --Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy today announced 11 reappointments and 24 new appointments to the Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board. Only two will not serve 3-year terms beginning Dec. 11, 1993. Due to reapportionment of the board, members appointed from the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast units will serve 1-year terms.

The Beef Board is composed of 107 members representing 37 states, three regions and importers. The Secretary selects the appointees from cattle producers and importers nominated by organizations representing beef, dairy, veal and importer interests.

Reappointed members representing cattle producers, by state and region, are: Alabama-- L.D. Fitzpatrick; Kansas--Janet F. Lyons; Kentucky--Gilbert R. Tucker Sr.; Montana--John P. Eidel; New York--Elaine Louise P. Swiler; Pennsylvania--Ralph E. Dotterer Sr.; Texas--Hilmar G. Moore, Julia R. Marietta; Mid-Atlantic Unit--James A. Kinsey.

Newly appointed members, by State, are: Arkansas--Ned R. Purtle; California--William J. Brandenburg; Colorado--Thomas K. Propst; Florida--Gertrude E. Carey; Idaho--Robert J. Lanting; Illinois--Roger M. Houston; Iowa-- Duane W. Wedemeier; Kansas--Lyle H. Gray; Kentucky--Samuel E. Moore; Minnesota--David H. Wiebke; Missouri--William R. Palmer; Nebraska--Paul F. Grabouski, Larry D. Hudkins; North Dakota--Rodney R. Nelson; Ohio--Louis F. Smith; Oklahoma--Frederick F. Drummond, Joe B. Drake; Texas--William T. Guerra and Neil A. Hoff; Virginia--Michael E. Goldwasser; Wisconsin--Janet M. Nelson; Northeast Unit--Irene L. Perkins and; Northwest Unit--Elizabeth Jean R. Berney.

Reappointed to represent importers are Frances M. Cassidy and Robert F. Wolf. The newly appointed importer is Gary R. Jurgovsky.

Established under the Beef Promotion and Research Act of 1985, the Board conducts a national program designed to improve the beef industry's position in the marketplace. The program is funded by a mandatory \$1-per-head assessment on all cattle marketed in the United States, and by an equivalent assessment on imported cattle and beef. Assessments began Oct. 1, 1986. Members of the initial board were appointed to one, two and three-year terms in 1986. Each year, approximately one-third of the positions are filled for 3-year terms.

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service monitors operation of the board.

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Release No. 0976.93

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USDA PROPOSES ALLOWING FRUIT COLD TREATMENT IN SOUTHERN UNITED STATES

WASHINGTON, Nov. 26 -- Responding to requests from individuals in Wilmington, N.C., and Gulfport, Miss., the U.S. Department of Agriculture today proposed a change in regulations to allow cold treatment of fruits and vegetables at ports in the southern United States and California.

Cold treatment of imported fruits and vegetables by sustained refrigeration prevents injurious insects, such as fruit flies, from entering and becoming established in the United States, said B. Glen Lee, deputy administrator for plant protection and quarantine in USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

Because of decreased pest risk to crops in the northern United States, USDA currently allows certain fruits and vegetables to be imported after undergoing cold treatment at designated northern ports.

"Before we amend the regulations, we want to consider comments on the pest risk, the safeguards required and any additional restrictions necessary to allow expansion of the cold-treatment program," Lee said.

At present, fruits and vegetables required to be treated for fruit flies may arrive in the U.S. only at Atlantic ports north of, and including, Baltimore, Md.; ports on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway; Canadian border ports on the North Dakota border and east of North Dakota, and, for air shipments, Washington, D.C., including Baltimore-Washington International and Dulles International airports.

The APHIS proposal was published in the Nov. 12 Federal Register. Comments will be accepted if they are received on or before Dec. 27. An original and three copies of written comments referring to docket number 93-121-1 should be sent to: Chief, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, USDA, Room 804, Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

Comments may be reviewed at USDA, room 1141, South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C., between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Persons wishing to review comments are encouraged to call ahead on (202) 690-2817 to facilitate entry into the comment reading room.

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Program Announcements-

Release No. 0971.93

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USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET RICE PRICES, MARKETING CERTIFICATE RATES

WASHINGTON, Nov. 23--Under Secretary of Agriculture Eugene Moos today announced the prevailing world market prices of milled rice, loan rate basis, as follows:

--long grain whole kernels:	11.48 cents per pound
--medium grain whole kernels:	10.76 cents per pound
--short grain whole kernels:	10.67 cents per pound
--broken kernels:	5.74 cents per pound

Based upon these milled rice world market prices, loan deficiency payment (LDP) rates, gains from repaying price support loans at the world market price, and marketing certificate rates are:

	Loan Gain and LDP Rate\$/Cwt.....	Marketing Certificate Rate
--for long grain:	\$0.00	\$0.00
--for medium grain:	\$0.00	\$0.00
--for short grain:	\$0.00	\$0.00

These announced prices and rates are effective today at 3 p.m. EST. The next scheduled price announcement will be made Nov. 30 at 3 p.m. EST.



Release No. 0975.93

Minnie Tom H. Meyer (202) 720-6734

USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET PRICE AND USER MARKETING CERTIFICATE PAYMENT RATE FOR UPLAND COTTON

WASHINGTON, Nov. 26--Grant Buntrock, executive vice president of USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation, today announced the prevailing world market price, adjusted to U.S. quality and location (adjusted world price or AWP), for Strict Low Middling (SLM) 1-1/16 inch (leaf grade 4, micronaire 3.5-3.6 and 4.3-4.9, strength 24-25 grams per tex) upland cotton (base quality), and the coarse count adjustment (CCA) in effect from 8:00 a.m. today through 3:59 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 2. The user marketing certificate payment rate announced today is in effect from 12:01 a.m. Friday, Nov. 26 through midnight Thursday, Dec. 2.

The Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended, provides that the AWP may be further adjusted if: (a) the AWP is less than 115 percent of the current crop year loan rate for base quality upland cotton, and (b) the Friday through Thursday average price quotation for the lowest-priced U.S. growth as quoted for Middling (M) 1-3/32 inch cotton, C.I.F. northern Europe (USNE price) exceeds the Northern Europe (NE) price. The maximum allowable adjustment is the difference between the USNE price and the NE price.

A further adjustment to this week's calculated AWP may be made in accordance with this provision. The calculated AWP is 81 percent of the 1993 upland cotton base quality loan rate, and the USNE price exceeds the NE price by 3.82 cents per pound. Following are the relevant calculations:

I.	Calculated AWP	42.16 cents per pound
	1993 Base Loan Rate	52.35 cents per pound
	AWP as a Percent of Loan Rate	81
II.	USNE Price	59.70 cents per pound
	NE Price	- 55.88 cents per pound
	Maximum Adjustment Allowed	3.82 cents per pound

Based on a consideration of the U.S. share of world exports, the current level of cotton export sales and cotton export shipments, and other relevant data, no further adjustment to this week's calculated AWP will be made.

This week's AWP and coarse count adjustment are determined as follows:

Adjusted World Price

NE Price	55.88
Adjustments:	
Avg. U.S. spot market location	11.91
SLM 1-1/16 inch cotton	1.50
Avg. U.S. location	0.31
Sum of Adjustments	- 13.72
Calculated AWP	42.16
Further AWP adjustment	- 0
ADJUSTED WORLD PRICE	42.16 cents/lb.

Coarse Count Adjustment

NE Price	55.88
NE Coarse Count Price	- 53.18
	2.70
Adjustment to SLM 1-1/32 inch cotton	- 3.20
	- 0.50
COARSE COUNT ADJUSTMENT	0 cents/lb.

Because the AWP is below 52.35 cents per pound, the base quality loan rate for both the 1992 and 1993 marketing years, the loan repayment rate during this period is equal to the AWP, adjusted for the specific quality and location plus applicable interest and storage charges. The AWP will continue to be used to determine the value of upland cotton that is obtained in exchange for commodity certificates.

Because the AWP is below the 1993-crop loan rate, cash loan deficiency payments (LDPs) will be paid to eligible producers who agree to forgo obtaining a price support loan with respect to the 1993 crop. The payment rate is equal to the difference between the loan rate and the AWP. Producers are allowed to obtain an LDP on a bale-by-bale basis.

The USNE price has exceeded the NE price by more than 1.25 cents per pound for four consecutive weeks and the AWP has not exceeded 130 percent of the 1993 crop year base quality loan rate in any week of the 4-week period. As a result, the user marketing certificate payment rate is 2.57 cents per pound. This rate is applicable during the Friday through Thursday period for bales opened by domestic users and for cotton contracts entered into by exporters for delivery prior to Sept. 30, 1994. Relevant data are summarized below:

Week	For the Friday through Thursday Period Ending	USNE Price	NE Price cents/lb	User Marketing Certificate Payment Rate
1	Nov. 4, 1993	56.15	54.40	0.50
2	Nov. 11, 1993	55.90	54.29	0.36
3	Nov. 18, 1993	57.90	55.06	1.59
4	Nov. 25, 1993	59.70	55.88	2.57

Next week's AWP, CCA and user marketing certificate payment rate will be announced on Thursday, Dec. 2, at 5 p.m.



Media Advisory-

Release No. 0973.93
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WASHINGTON, Nov. 24--The National Research Council has just published a major report on "Soil and Water Quality -- An Agenda for Agriculture." Reporters may get copies from the Office of News and Public Information, National Research Council, 2101 Constitution Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. (202) 334-2138.

The Council is a private non-profit institution that provides science and technology advice under a congressional charter. The study was sponsored by USDA and the Environmental Protection Agency.



Release No. 0977.93
 Steve Kinsella (202) 720-4623

CANADIAN FLOOD VOLUNTEERS TO BE HONORED

WASHINGTON, Nov. 26--At 10 a.m. on Monday, Nov. 29, Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy will present certificates of appreciation to a team of volunteers from Canada's Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration for their help in managing projects in the flood-ravaged U.S. Midwest.

The 10 PFRA engineers and technicians spent the last three months in the states of Missouri, Iowa, Illinois, and Kansas helping USDA's Soil Conservation Service manage the rebuilding of dikes, levees and pumping plants.

The members of the team are: Walter Saciuk and Bob Cameron, of Calgary; Arnold Giddings, of Moose Jaw; Bob Stevenson, Jim Melville, George Shepherd and Albert Engel, of Regina; Ed Hunchak and Wade Morrison, of Saskatoon; and Stella Fedeniuk, of Brandon.

The PFRA was established by the Canadian government in the 1930s and focuses on soil and water conservation and rural development.

For more information about the assistance provided by the volunteers, contact:

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